The TATLER.

By *Iſaac Bickerſtaff* Eſq;

From *Saturday July* 15. to *Tueſday July* 18. 1710.

WHEN we revolve in our Thoughts ſuch Cataſtrophes as that in the Hiſtory of the unhappy *Celia*, there ſeems to be ſomething ſo hazardous in the changing a ſingle State of Life into that of Marriage, that (it may happen) all the Precautions imaginable are not ſufficient to defend a Virgin from Ruin by her Choice. It ſeems a wonderful Inconſiſtence in the Diſtribution of publick Juſtice, that a Man who robs a Woman of an Ear-Ring or a Jewel, ſhould be puniſhed with Death; but one who by falſe Arts and Inſinuations ſhould take from her her very ſelf, is only to ſuffer Diſgrace. This excellent young Woman has nothing to conſolate her ſelf with, but the Reflection that her Sufferings are not the Effect of any Guilt or Miſconduct, and has for her Protection the Influence of a Power which, amidſt the unjuſt Reproach of all Mankind, can give not only Patience, but Pleaſure to Innocence in Diſtreſs.

As the Perſon who is the Criminal againſt *Celia* cannot be ſufficiently puniſhed according to our preſent Law, ſo are there numberleſs unhappy Perſons without Remedy according to preſent Cuſtom. That great Ill which has prevailed among us in theſe latter Ages, is the making even Beauty and Virtue the Purchaſe of Money. The Generality of Parents, and ſome of thoſe of Quality, inſtead of looking out for introducing Health of Conſtitution, Frankneſs of Spirit, or Dignity of Countenance, into their Families, lay out all their Thoughts upon finding out Matches for their Eſtates, and not their Children. You ſhall have one form a Plot for the Good of his Family, that there ſhall not be Six Men in *England* capable of pretending to his Daughter. A Second ſhall have a Son obliged out of meer Diſcretion, for fear of doing any Thing below himſelf, follow all the Drabs in Town. Theſe ſage Parents meet; and as there is no Paſs, no Courtſhip, between the young Ones, it is no unpleaſant Obſervation to behold how they proceed to Treaty. There is ever in the Behaviour of each ſomething that denotes his Circumſtance; and honeſt *Coupler* the Conveniencer ſays, he can diſtinguiſh upon Sight of the Parties, before they have opened any Point of their Buſineſs, which of the Two has the Daughter to ſell. *Coupler* is of our Club, and I have frequently heard him declaim upon this Subject, and aſſert, That the Marriage-Settlements which are now uſed, have grown faſhionable even within his Memory.

When the Theatre in ſome late Reigns owed its chief Support to thoſe Scenes which were written to put Matrimony out of Countenance, and render that State terrible; then was it, that Pin-Money firſt prevailed, and all the other Articles inſerted which create a Diffidence; and intimate to the young People, that they are very ſoon to be in a State of War with each other: Tho' this had ſeldom happened, except the Fear of it had been expreſſed. *Coupler* will tell you alſo, that Jointures were never frequent till the Age before his own; but the Women were contented with the Third Part of the Eſtate the Law allotted them, and ſcorned to engage with Men whom they thought capable of abuſing their Children. He has alſo informed me, that thoſe who were the oldeſt Benchers when he came to the *Temple* told him, the firſt Marriage-Settlement of conſiderable Length was the Invention of an old Serjeant, who took the Opportunity of Two Teſty Fathers, who were ever ſquabbling to bring about an Alliance between their Children. Theſe Fellows knew each other to be Knaves, and the Serjeant took hold of their mutual Diffidence, for the Benefit of the Law, to extend the Settlement to Three Skins of Parchment.

To this great Benefactor to the Profeſſion is owing the preſent Price current of Lines and Words. Thus is Tenderneſs thrown out of the Queſtion, and the great Care is, What the young Couple ſhall do when they come to hate each other? I do not queſtion but from this one Humour of Settlements might very fairly be deduced, not only our preſent Defection in Point of Morals, but alſo our Want of People. This has given Way to ſuch unreaſonable Gallantries, that a Man is hardly reproachable that deceives an innocent Woman, tho' ſhe has never ſo much Merit, if ſhe is below him in Fortune. The Man has no Diſhonour following his Treachery, and her own Sex are ſo debated by Force of Cuſtom, as to ſay in the Caſe of the Woman, How could ſhe expect he would marry her?

By this Means, the good Offices, the Pleaſures, and Graces of Life, are not put into the Ballance. The Bridegroom has given his Eſtate out of himſelf, and he has no more left but to follow the blind Decree of his Fate, whether he ſhall be ſucceeded by a Sot or a Man of Merit in his Fortune. On

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the other Side, a fine Woman, who has alſo a Fortune, is ſet up by Way of Auction. Her Firſt Lover has Ten to One againſt him. The very Hour after he has opened his Heart and his Rent-Roll, he is made no other Uſe of but to raiſe her Price. She and her Friends loſe no Opportunity of publiſhing it, to call in new Bidders; while the poor Lover very innocently waits till the Plenipotentiaries at the Inns of Court have debated about the Alliance. All the Partiſans of the Lady throw Difficulties in the Way till other Offers come in, and the Man who came firſt is not put in Poſſeſſion till ſhe has been refuſed by half the Town. If an Abhorrence to ſuch mercenary Proceedings were well ſettled in the Minds of my Fair Readers, thoſe of Merit would have a Way opened to their Advancement; nay, thoſe who abound in Wealth only, would in Reality find their Account in it. It would not be in the Power of their Prude Acquaintance, their Waiters, their Nurſes, Cozens, and Whiſperers, to perſwade them, that there are not above Twenty Men in a Kingdom (and thoſe ſuch as, perhaps, they may never ſet Eyes on) whom they can think of with Diſcretion. As the Caſe ſtands now, let any one conſider, how the great Heireſſes, and thoſe to whom they were offered, (for no other Reaſon but that they could make them ſuitable Settlements) live together. What can be more inſipid, if not loathſom, than for Two Perſons to be at the Head of a Crowd who have as little regard for them as they for each other, and behold one another in an affected Senſe of Proſperity, without the leaſt Reliſh of that exquiſite Gladneſs at Meeting, that ſweet Inquietude at Parting, together with the Charms of Voice, Look, Geſture, and that general Benevolence between well choſen Lovers, which makes all Things pleaſe, and leaves not the leaſt Triſle indifferent.

But I am diverted from theſe Sketches for future Eſſays in Behalf of my numerous Clients of the Fair Sex, by a Notice ſent to my Office in *Sheer-lane*, that a blooming Widow, in the Third Year of her Widowhood, and Twenty ſixth of her Age, deſigns to take a Colonel of Twenty eight. The Parties requeſt I would draw up their Terms of coming together, as having a Regard to my Opinion againſt long and diffident Settlements; and I have ſent them the following Indenture:

'We *John*---- and *Mary*---- having Eſtates for Life, reſolve to take each other. I *John* will venture my Life to enrich thee *Mary*; and I *Mary* will conſult my Health to nurſe the *John*. To which we have interchangeably ſet our Hands, Hearts, and Seals, this 17th of *July*, 1710.

Adverti ſements.

*** The Firſt Volume of the Lucubrations of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; in Octavo, on a Fine Royal and Medium Papers, is now to be delivered to Subſcribers, by Charles Lillie, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beaufort-Buildings in the Strand, and J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall.

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A Conſort of MUSICK will be performed on Saturday next, being the 22d Inſtant, at the Deſire of ſeveral Gentlemen and Ladies living in and near Hampſtead, by the beſt Maſters. Several of the Opera Songs will be performed by a Girl of 9 Years old, a Scholar of Mr. Tenoe's, who never performed in publick but once at York-Buildings with very good Succeſs. For the Benefit of Mr. Tenoe.

*** Epiſtolarum Obſcurorum Virorum, ad D. M. Ortuinum Gratium, Volumina duo; ex tam multis Libris conglutinata, quod unus Pinguis Cocus, per decem Annos, Oves, Boves, Sues, Grues, Paſſeres, Anſeres, &c. coquere, vel aliquis fumoſus caleſactor centum magna Hypocauſta per viginti Annos absis caleſacere poſſet. Acceſſerunt huic Editioni Epiſtola Magiſtri Benedicti Paſſavantii, ad D. Petrum Lyſetum; & La Complainte de Meſſire Pierre Lyſet, ſur le Treſpaſs de ſon Feunez. Impenſis Henrici Clements ad Inſignc Lunæ Falcatæ in Cœmeterio Divi Pauli.

Morning-Gowns for Men and Women, of Silk, Stuffs, and Callicoe's (being the Goods of Perſons that failed) which were to be diſpoſed of at the Olive-Tree and Still, are now to be ſold at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs; with a freſh Parcel at very low Rates, the Price being ſet on each Gown.

FOR Sale by the Candle, to Morrow, being the 19th Inſtant, at Lloyd's Coffee-houſe in Lombard-ſtreet, at Six in the Afternoon, 42 Butts (only one Cask in a Lot) of new excellent Barcelona Wines, neat, an entire Parcel, lately landed, now in a Vault near the Pump; and 9 Pipes of new Florence Wine, neat, in a Vault over-againſt the Arch, in Crouched-Friars. To be ſeen this Day from 7 to 1, and from 2 to 7, and to Morrow till the Hour of Sale. To be ſold by T. Tomkins, Broker, in Seething Lane between Tower-ſtreet and Crutched-Friars.

NOtice is hereby given, that 53 Hhds. of extraordinary French Claret will be put up to Sale, at 25 l. per Hogſhead, at Garraway's Coffee-houſe in Exchange-Alley, on Thurſday the 20th Inſtant at Three in the Afternoon. Catalogues may be had at the Publick-Sale Warehouſe on the North Part of the Royal-Exchange, up the Stairs of Threadneedle-ſtreet Side. Likewiſe where Notes will be given to the Cooper, in Order for Gentlemen and others to taſt the Wines.

†‡† The Library of the Lord Viſcount Falkland, being a Collection of the moſt valuable Hiſtorians, Travels, &c. of the beſt Editions, in French, Engliſh, and Latin, moſt of them gilt and letter'd, will begin to be ſold on Thurſday the 20th Inſtant, at 9 in the Morning, at the Roſe-Tavern without Temple-bar. The Price of each Book to be inſerted on the firſt Leaf. The Sale to continue 3 Days, and no longer. Catalogues to be had at Mr. Strahan's near the Royal-Exchange, Mr. Clement's in St. Paul's Church-yard, Mr. Brown's without Temple-bar, Mr. Ward's in the Inner-Temple-lane, Mr. Vaillant's againſt Bedford-Buildings in the Strand, and Mr. Harding's in St. Martin's-lane, Bookſellers, and at the Place of Sale. N. B. The Books may be view'd this Day from 9 in the Morning till 6 in the Evening, and no other Time before the Sale begins.

†‡† La Secchia Rapita, the Trophy-Bucket; A Mock-Heroick Poem: The firſt of the Kind. By Signior Aleſſandro Taſſoni, upon an Accident that happened between the two Parties of the Guelphs and the Gibellins in Italy, in their Contention about who ſhould be uppermoſt, the Emperor or the Pope. Done from the Italian into Engliſh Rhime. By Mr. Ozell. To which is annexed, A correct Copy of Taſſoni's Original; together with Signior Salviani's Notes from the Venetian Edition, with Hiſtorical Cuts. Part I. This was the Poem which gave the Hint to Boileau's Lutrin, and the Author by him invok'd in that Poem. Printed for E. Sanger at the Middle-Temple-gate in Fleet-ſtreet. Price 1 s. 6 d.

CHocolate made of the beſt Nuts, ground very fine, 2 s. 6 d. a Pound. Chocolate with Sugar, 20 d. a Pound. Bohee Tea, little inferior to the beſt, 16 s. a Pound. Sold by R. Fary only, at the Bell in Gracechurch-ſtreet, Druggiſt.

THE Sixpenny Sale of Plate, that is at the Cap-ſhop, Three Doors from the Cole-yard in High-Holborn over-againſt the Buſh, will be drawn on Tueſday the firſt of Auguſt next. There being a ſmall Quantity of Tickets to diſpoſe of, any Perſon may be furniſhed at the Cap-ſhop abovementioned.

DR. Tyſon's Apoplectick Snuff, which is peculiarly adapted for all Diſtempers in the Head, is ſold (ſealed up in Tin Boxes with the Directions at large) at St. James's Coffee-houſe near St. James's Houſe; at the 7 Stars under St. Dunſtan's Church, Fleet-ſtreet; at the Printing-Preſs in Fleet-ſtreet, over-againſt Water-lane; and at Robin's Coffee-houſe in Exchange-Alley, Cornhil.